

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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R 052050Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8626

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 4672

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR VE

SUBJECT: ALLEGATIONS AGAINST AMBASSADOR BURELLI RIVAS

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. THE "MIRAFLORES A LA VISTA" COLUMN IN EL NACIONAL ON MAY 4 REPORTED BRIEFLY THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS "SUGGESTED" TO VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR TO THE US MIGUEL ANGEL BURELLI RIVAS THAT HE "CLARIFY" INFORMATION PUBLISHED RECENTLY IN CARACAS THAT WHILE AMBASSADOR TO THE US HE IS ALSO PRACTICING LAW "AS A CONSULTANT ON LATIN AMERICA TOGETHER WITH THE US ATTORNEY JAY SCHAFRANN."

2. WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE RESUMEN OF MAY 4 PUBLISHED, UNDER THE TITLE (IN ENGLISH) "BURELLI AND COMPANY, NEW YORK," A SHORT ARTICLE DISPLAYING A LETTERHEAD SHOWING THE LEGEND "BURELLI, BRIGARD AND PARRAGA, CONSULTANTS ON LATIN MAERICAN LAW" ON ONE SIDE OF THE PAGE AND "JAY H. SCHAFRANN, RESIDENT PARTNER" ON THE OTHER, WITH THE TITLE OF BURELLI'S LAW FIRM IN CARACAS (BURELLI, FIGUEREDO, TOVAR Y ORELLANA) UNDERNEATH. A BRIEF COMMENTARY STATES THAT SCHAFRANN HAS BEEN SEEN FREQUENTLY IN THE VENEZUELAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, AND ASKS IF IT IS PROPER FOR AN AMBASSADOR TO PRACTICE LAW IN THE COUNTRY TO WHICH HE IS ACCREDITED. (ARTICLE BEING POUCHED TO ARA/NC/V.) END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. BURELLI TOLD CHARGE APRIL 28 THAT HE  
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HAS NOT ENGAGED IN ANY TYPE OF LEGAL PRACTICE SINCE BECOMING

AMBASSADOR TO THE US. HE STATED THAT A PERSONAL FEUD HAD LONG EXISTED BETWEEN HIMSELF AND JORGE OLAVARRIA, RESUMEN'S EDITOR, WHO, HE SAID, IS HIS FREQUENT CRITIC.

4. COMMENT. THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL INDICATIONS THAT THE GOV IS UNHAPPY WITH BURELLI, ALTHOUGH THE "MIRAFLORES A LA VISTA" COLUMN, WHICH BEARS THE EARMARKS OF A DELIBERATE LEAK, IS THE FIRST PUBLIC SUGGESTION OF OFFICIAL DISSATISFACTION OVER HIS PERFORMANCE. FOR MONTHS IMPORTANT ADECOS HAVE BEEN COMPLAINING PRIVATELY THAT BURELLI HAS FAILED TO PUBLICIZE AND DEFEND WITH SUFFICIENT VIGOR PRESIDENT PEREZ'S FOREIGN POLICY. BURELLI'S RATHER CLUMSY EFFORTS TO PROMOTE HIS OWN CANDIDACY FOR THE OAS SECRETARY GENERAL-SHIP HAVE NOT BEEN LOOKED ON WITH ENTHUSIASM BY THE GOV. IT IS NO SECRET THAT FOREIGN MINISTER ESCOVAR IS DISSATISFIED WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ITSELF AND IS CONTEMPLATING A SHAKEUP OF ITS PERSONNEL. ESCOVAR'S MAY 7-17 VISIT TO THE US WILL GIVE HIM AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A FIRST-HAND ASSESSMENT OF THE PERFORMANCE OF BURELLI AND THE VENEZUELAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. CHANGES COULD BE MADE THEREAFTER. END CONFIDENTIAL. SHLAUDEMAN

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